



**2024 Vallee Scholars
Call for Nominations
Deadline: December 1, 2023**

Recognizing that outstanding, early career, independent investigators are the source for future advances in the biomedical sciences and appreciating that flexible funding for basic research is needed, the Vallee Foundation will once again accept nominations for Vallee Scholar Awards. The Vallee Foundation welcomes nominations for outstanding scientists regardless of race, gender or disability, but is mindful of the lack of diversity within the scientific research community as a whole and is committed to furthering the careers of historically under-represented minorities.

Award

This award provides a one-time, career development award of \$340,000 to exceptional, early stage, independent investigators carrying out basic biomedical research. These funds must be expended over a period of four years or less. (Under extenuating circumstances, a one-year extension of the award may be granted.) While relatively unrestricted, no more than 10% of the grant can be used for institutional indirect costs. Use of award funds for salary support of the applicant is not permitted. Salary for others, such as postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and research assistants is allowed, as are expenditures for supplies, equipment, research travel, and dependent care while attending scientific conferences. Graduate student tuition payments cannot exceed \$10,000 per year.

It is expected that Vallee Scholars will be engaged in bold and innovative research. During the grant period, Vallee Scholars will be invited to two biennial Vallee Scholars Meetings and, in alternate years, to two Vallee Summer Symposia and will be asked to present their research on at least one of these occasions. The Foundation expects Vallee Scholars to make every effort to attend these scientific meetings and become members of the Vallee Foundation community. A list of previous Vallee Scholars can be found on our website: www.thevalleefoundation.org

Eligibility

This award is available only to investigators nominated by institutions that have been invited by the Vallee Foundation to submit a nomination, and only one application can be submitted per institution. The candidate must have received a PhD/MD or other professional degree within 12 years of the application deadline. By the same date, the candidate should be in an independent research position at the nominating institution and have been an independent researcher for 6 years or fewer. The Vallee Foundation has no restrictions on nominees having received other grant funding; the Selection Committee may, at its discretion, however, consider the levels and other sources of funding when comparing closely-ranked candidates.

The Vallee Foundation is sensitive to matters that may affect career trajectories. Institutions that are considering a candidate who has taken leave from their career (eg for

childbirth or parenting of a child, long-term care of a parent/spouse/child/dependent or personal health issues) and is thus beyond the eligibility time frame for the award should get in touch with the Foundation first.

Timetable

December 1, 2023 Nomination Deadline: for institutions to submit a nomination.
February 1, 2024 Application Deadline: for nominees to complete online applications.
September 2024 Awards will be announced by early September 2024, with funding provided soon thereafter.

Selection of nominee

Arrangements for the nomination process at each institution are to be made by a research leader at each of the selected institutions. While the details of the selection process are at the discretion of the institution, a full description of the selection process should be included in the nomination letter.

The Letter of Nomination from the Dean or Department Chair should be sent to the Vallee Foundation (amason@thevalleefoundation.org) no later than December 1, 2023. The letter should include:

- Name and email address of the candidate,
- Description of the merit of the candidate and his or her research,
- Description of the institution's process to select the candidate, including whether or not a committee was convened and the names of the committee members, and
- Confirmation that the candidate is in an independent research position and falls within all eligibility requirements.

Online Application:

All applications will be administered through Foundant, our Online Grants Management system, where nominees can create an account, draft, save and submit their application, upload documents and reports, and change and control contact information.

Once the institution has selected a nominee and informed the Vallee Foundation, the Foundation will provide the nominee with log-on details. By February 1, 2024, the nominee must complete the application form and upload the following documents:

1. **Complete *Curriculum Vitae***. Include degree information, all positions held, research support (institutional and external), awards, and publications.
2. **Research proposal**. The narrative should not exceed five, single-spaced, 8.5"x11" pages of text using 12-point font and not less than ½-inch margin. Figure legends of embedded figures should be legible. The proposal should include:
 - a) Title
 - b) Abstract
 - c) Specific Aims
 - d) Brief introduction/survey of the field

- e) Proposed research, including preliminary results
Cited literature can be appended as separate pages.
3. **Budget.**
 4. **Two of the nominee's most important papers published to date.** Papers that have not been officially accepted by a peer-reviewed journal will not be accepted.

Applications cannot be changed or modified after submission by February 1, 2024.

Nominees will also be asked to:

- **provide a project summary** (1400 characters - this should be in lay terms and not the same as the abstract in the research proposal),
- **explain the most novel and innovative aspects of their research** (1400 characters),
- **describe what they have done in the past and their ongoing efforts to address issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion,**
- **describe how the Vallee Foundation funding will make a difference to their research** (1400 characters), and
- **describe the importance of their two most significant papers in advancing the field of research** (1400 characters).

Letters of Reference

Two letters of reference from experts in the field should be sent by the referees directly to the Vallee Foundation via email to amason@thevalleefoundation.org to arrive no later than February 1. It is expected that one of these letters would be from one of the candidate's training mentors.

Monitoring of Grant

Upon accepting the grant, the institution will be responsible for monitoring the selected research project. A brief report describing the research progress and a record of expenditures certified by an appropriate institutional official are required each year.

About the Foundation

The Vallee Foundation was established in 1996 to cultivate, refine, and implement a vision for scientific research and medical education with particular appreciation for originality, creativity, individuality, and leadership.

The Vallee Foundation fulfills its mission by promoting the development of interdisciplinary sciences related to human health; by supporting interactions between productive scientists both in the United States and abroad; by promoting dialogue between productive scientists and non-scientists in order to realize the practical application of scientific research; by sponsoring and/or organizing short-term visiting professorships, symposia, and lectures; by supporting innovative scientific research; and by engaging in other activities consistent with the foregoing purposes.

For further information, please get in touch with: Alexa Mason, Executive Director
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or consult our website at www.thevalleefoundation.org